## SOME WONDERFUL BOYS. Marvelous Mental Feats Performed by Pre-

There are, of course, many excellent books which deal with boys in fiction, and there are also actual biographies which narrate what promising young persons certain individuals were who in after life achieved greatness, but in the latter case the prophecy is made after the event, and somehow or other the youth thus eulogized has generally too little of the boy about him to be quite believed in. What I venture to propose is that some sympathetic writer should tell us "what boys have done" when they were boys.

This is by no means so small a matter as may be supposed. There are, of course, the musical boys. Handel, who at nine years old

"composed a church service for voices and instruments every week," and at fifteen brought out three successful operas, and Mozart, who also at nine had a reception in London "such as the curious give to novelty, the scientific to intelligence, and the great to what administers to stately pleasure:" at ten he "composed a mass for the dedication of the church of the orphans at Vienna, and acted as director in person."

These were certainly boys who made some noise in the world.

Then there were the calculating boys-who, it is noteworthy, distinguished themselves as juveniles much more than as grown-ups-Zerah Colburn, who astonished the scientific world of London as a child "by raising the number eight progressively up to the tenth power," and whose mind was a fertile soil for cube roots when his contemporaries were learning addition.

One gentleman, by way of a side dish during a feast of figures, asked him how many seconds there were in fortyeight years, and before the question could be written down he answered it correctly.

George Bidder made even this youth take a back seat, for at twelve years old, when taken to the stock exchange, he was asked this little question, and answered it in one minute: "If the pendulum of a clock vibrates the distance of nine and three-fourth inches in a second, how many inches will it vibrate in the course of seven years fourteen days two hours one minute fifty-six

Even with pencil and paper I know persons (who shall be nameless) that could not answer this in seven years.

velous boy, who perished in his pride," and in quite another line of business. Thomas Malkin, who died not "a dotard at seven," but undeniably the greatest scholar of his age. He was an "allaround" genius. He knew more about Greek at four than some people (again I forbear to mention names) at four-

At five he made copies of some of Raphael's heads so admirably that connoisseurs prophesied he would be a great artist. His most remarkable feat, however, because it showed imaginative powers of a high order, was his description of a visionary country called Allestone, of which he consid-

ered himself king. He wrote its history in a number of tales and letter, and drew maps of it, giving names of his own invention to its mountains, rivers and seaports.

He was probably the most remarkable boy-though, indeed, he was but a child-who ever lived.

The most excellent boy from the financial point of view was, however, undoubtedly, William King West Betty, better known as "the young Roscius," who at fifteen years of age retired from the stage, having made something like thirty thousand pounds for his family.

Here was "something like" a boythough, in fact, he was not in the least like one-and happy should be the father who has his quiver full of such.-James Payn, in Illustrated London News.

## LIFE OF A SPY.

Military Esplonage and Military Method

The utility of the actual spy in time of war nowadays is limited, especially in actual warfare, by the fact that they are seldom able to convey their news fast enough, and during the turmoil of war it is only the very latest news that is of any value. When there is a temporary lull in the hostilities, they can be utilized in the camp of the enemy, and they are specially adaptable during the period of preparation for war, while the armies are occupied with the equipment and marching orders. Under such circumstances, important personages, who are seldom seen in intercourse with the others, mix freely among the ordinary herd, and thus an opportunity is afforded to the spy to study both country and people. If the "theater of war" is just on the boundaries, there is never any lack of self-sacrificing men who are willing to risk their lives and reputations for the sake of their country, and here again espionage loses a great deal of its abhorrent characteristics. Still the enemy is bound, in self-defense, to punish even these patriotic efforts with extreme severity, and the command issued by the Germans on August 19, 1870, was that all spies and traitors should be punished by death. Although the decree was greatly criticised at the time, it was in point of fact simply a necessary precaution. Other armies have gone still further; for instance, in the American war of independence, in 1780, the British major and generaladjutant, Andre, was arrested on a tour of espionage in the enemy's lines and hanged, although he begged for the privilege of being shot "like a sol-

Such espionage as this, however, can which he said blinded him. the contrary. In this case the end certainly justifies the means. The spy who sacrifices reputation, honor and life for his country, may be looked on as a true hero. -Count Erich Von Walden, in Home and Country.

No Time to Repent. "And so you married in haste. Well,

did you repent at leisure?" "Hardly. I have not had a leisure moment since the ceremony."-Truth.

-Helena, Mont., was named for a demale relative of a miner named John Sommerville.



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CHAPTER X.

The visit of Fenning and his mysterious companion to Laran resulted in a way that neither he nor the visitor could have predicted. Hendricks met him in the most gentlemanly manner, told him to make himself at home in the hotel (for that was what the sanitarium was frequently called); gave him to understand that he would have a talk with him and fix the mat- grass. ter up satisfactorily when he found a good opportunity. He even sent him down into the workshops, and treated him so hospitably that the man was outwitted at the start.

He had not been in the cave half an hour when he encountered the captain. who very seldom left it, but occupied all his time in playing cribbage and



"WHERE IS MRS. HENDRICKS?"

drinking rum. That personage greeted him with a sailor's cordiality and swore that it did his blasted mole's eyes good to see a salt water man underground

The captain evidently knew him, for he called him Jack Endicott, as tough and tight a forecastle man as ever ran a blockade or drank a pint of rum between watches.

Whatever else Endicott may have been he was not proof against the temptation of good liquor and an irresponsible life and he never before encountered liquor quite so good as the captain's, whose well-stocked buffet in his cabin made a seaman's eyes gloat.

Whether it was part of Hendricks' scheme to disarm Endicott in this way, is not positively known. But he had told Fenning before that gentleman left Laran that he could safely leave the man with him.

"I want," he said, "to know how he

read that telegram." Four days passed and Endicott had only seen Hendricks among the men at work upon the furnace and electrical works, but the captain told him everything was all right-he could have all the money he wanted, but he wished him to stay longer. "Damn it-vou're the only man with the smell of salt on you that I've seen since I've been in this subcellar." Then they repaired to the cabin, filled themselves with rum and went to sleep spinning yarns.

At the end of a week Endicott in a sober and sullen mood had an interview with Hendricks and demanded a settlement. Hendricks treated him with the utmost politeness and said that while he was perfectly willing to pay him to secure his silence, it was necessary to think of some way in which the specie could be transferred

without exciting suspicion. "You see, my dear sir," he said, "I'm only consulting our mutual safety, I wish you'd talk to the captain about it. I'll do whatever he advises. O, by the way, I got a dispatch from Fenning this morning in which he says the police are looking for you. If that is the case, I wouldn't be in a hurry to

leave this retreat." Endicott did not dispute the correctness of this statement, as Hendricks expected. Nor did any subsequent experiment of this kind furnish any clew to his former knowledge

of the telegram. He went back to the captain-they filled up on rum and both of them set out to see the lake which was to be lit for the first time and upon which the captain boasted that he was going to have a good clinker-built boat so that he could keep his shoulder-blades !im-

It is not known whether they quarreled on the way or not. But when in the rotunda the captain wanted to point out to him the chasm-one of those bottomless pits which appear to be a feature of all great caverns, and which the captain called the "Devil's Gullet"-they were seen together in tipsy discussion about twenty feet



from its rim by two of the workmen. and ten minutes later the captain was

Endicott was never seen again on earth. Whether he was pushed over or staggered over, Hendricks declared he never knew. But a marked change came over the captain after this. He drank more than ever, and slept most the lower exit, who could pick them the Tennessee sanitarium. The secret of his time away in an alcoholic stu- off in detail without any danger to service of the government was in pospor, never coming into the daylight, himself. The exit above was covered

A week after the catastrophe, about | mobility was undetectable by anybody | captain and they had traced him to the seven o'clock in the evening, as Mr. | who was not already aware of the de- Mississippi. Vast quantities of gold and Mrs. Hendricks, with two or three vice. In addition to this, a steel door had been paid out for goods sent to other persons, were sitting on the had been fitted to the end of the pas- Laran. One fact elicited another. But western balcony of the sanitarium, the sage below where it opened into the inquiries failed to identify Hendricks figure of a woman suddenly appeared vast work-room, because Hendricks with the description given of Kent as against the dark masses of shrubbery | thought at times he heard in the room | he appeared on the San Pedro and the about forty feet from the house. She above the sound of the engine and Memphis bank said that he had gold seemed to have taken form at that dynamo. spot. Nobody saw her previous approach, and her siender and graceful thus obtained when the inmates of the sort of inquiry got into the papers, figure was clad in some kind of light sanitarium went below. It was material which caught all there was of the departing light and made her look the departing light and made he exceedingly phantom-like. All the direction.

persons in the balcony saw her at the The next and obvious consideration

lug manner, but perfectly crect, and as sanitarium. In carrying out the first of she got nearer they all saw that her these precautions, he had managed, eyes were fixed on vacancy and that with consummate care, during a period she was extremely pallid. One of the of eight months, to load into the southgentlemen exclaimed in French, "La western entrance a vast store of ma-Somnambule," and Hendricks, who had terial, purchased at Cincinnati, Louisrisen, leaned over the rail and spoke to ville, St. Louis and Memphis, and deher. He unconsciously used the tone livered by boat at the Wash bayon. of one calling a sleeper.

"Hallo, there," he cried. and pointed at Hendricks. It was a

to her, and with some difficulty picked settee where there was a rug, and the torn as if by contact with the bushes. face, she was singularly beautiful, "Some invalid who has got astray,"

said Mrs. Hendricks with pity. The girl raised herself on her elbow and stared at the place and the people until her eyes rested on Hendricks, and then in a soft, clear voice, she said: "I am Jack Endicott's daughter. I

have come for justice."

Then she broke down and sobbed piteously.

"This is a revelation," said Hendricks. "The woman is a clairvoyant. Now I know how Endicott got his intenderly and we'll test her power."

the young woman was conveyed to a comfortable room and all the resources ploits so inextricably confused genius sky. There are servants about the

same moment, and one of them uttered i to which Rendricks had directed his a little exclamation as if an apparition | whole energy was the provisioning of the retreat and the securing of a safe She came toward the group in a glid- and hidden exit far removed from the where there was a storehouse and whence the goods were hauled for the The woman, who was about twenty apparent use of the two surface hotels. feet away, raised one of her long arms Other and smaller streams of supplies were reaching the sanitarium overland phantom-like and significant action. continuously. It is calculated that dur-The next moment she uttered an ing the eight months over eleven hun-

audible moan and fell down upon the dred thousand dollars were spent for supplies. In the lists of purchases ap-Hendricks jumped over the rail, ran peared two items of unusual import-"one thousand magazine riflesher up. She was carried upon the bal- eighteen thousand dollars." They cony limp and silent and laid upon a were contracted for in the east by western dealer ostensibly to be sold on group gathered around her in pity and the plains and were bought in three wonder. Her garments were soiled and lots. But they reached the Wash bayou without attracting attention, But in spite of her somewhat haggard for they were shipped in pieces at intervals and put together in the Laran works. The other item was-"five hundred polished nickel steel plates" made to order by the Corinth Steel company and consigned to "Bradshaw & Fenning, Memphis, Tenn." These plates figured in the mysterious Laport gun which afterwards caused such consternation.

Hendricks, during these eight months, had evidently calculated to Mr. and Mrs. Hendricks walked apart. offset the increased probabilities of exposure in making such vast purchases by the increased security afforded when he got his material into formation. It is fortunate for us that his fortress-and this alone would we have possession of her. Treat her show that he had other and vaster schemes in abeyance, and that, after Mrs. Hendricks did not understand all, the fitting out of the Laran cave the full significance of his words-but was only a provisional step to something else.

Our imaginary visit, therefore, at of the establishment used to soothe and | this time discloses at Laran an entirely reassure her. She remained, however, different condition of affairs. The taciturn and heart-broken for two sanitarium looks like a rural hotel. days. All efforts to make her eat or There are several persons on the broad converse were of little avail. On the balcony, but they exhibit only the inthird day, it was reported that she was dolence of country boarders. The dying. Hendricks saw her in com- warm sun lies peacefully on the lawns, pany with Dr. Pellissier, who had first but there is a shimmer in the air above called her a somnambulist. This the big chimney which tells of a great erratic Frenchman, whose after ex- volume of heat pouring into the blue



"YOU'RE THE ONLY MAN WITH THE SMELL OF SALT ON YOU."

and madness, instantly pronounced it kitchen and there are two Royal Dane a case of trance and was delighted be- mastiffs with their heads on their yond measure. Here the case was left paws asleep on the steps of the main in his hands as other and more urgent entrance. events were demanding Hendricks' at-

sequently. One morning he found the | neath its foundations. woman who was in a trance condition clasping something in her hand. It domain, we find the place lighted as if packets containing hair of other colors | us. The whole area is encircled with Mrs. Hendricks.

CHAPTER XI. second year of preparation and endeavor, not only to get a clear view of station and iron steps reaching down what had been done, but prepared to to the stone flooring and a heavy crane view with astonishment the still more for landing tools. The coal measure audacious projects of this man.

Laran was now a hidden hive of energy. The great sanitarium which lifted its rude but imposing proportions out of the wilderness and poured an almost continuous stream of black smoke from its chimney stack, held a varying population, some of whom were woman, and all of whom were Hendricks' agents. Sixteen miles away was another large house, reached on the surface by an almost impassable and tortuous road of rocks, but accessible to all the inmates of the sanitarium in less than half an hour by underground means and connected by telephone and telegraph of the latest and nicest adjustment along the same subterranean passages.

The shaft from the sanitarium to the labyrinth beneath had been perfected by the most consummate mechanical skill of Laport, and it was hidden from casual observation by the most cunning adjustment of materials. That end of the house which covered the descent had cost Hendricks and Laport more thought and ingenuity than all else. The shaft had been enlarged and fitted with an iron lift down to the narrow passage that led from it to the arena. The circular steel cage which fitted into the shaft could be turned passage would be on the opposite side against a solid wall of rock and the passengers, if enemies, would have to cut their way through a half inch of steel to get into the passage and, when there, would have to walk through in doors, single file at the mercy of anybody at

There is not the slightest indication in this quiet hostelry hidden among the But the doctor made a discovery trees and rocks of the great slope on which proved of great importance sub- which it stands of the activity under-

The moment we arrive in the lower proved to be a small packet with with the light of day; the hum of manuman hair in it. Two more of these | chinery and the murmur of voices reach were afterwards found in her bed by wooden structures, offices, warerooms and habitations, some of them tastily, though flimsily, built. In the center of the area is a pavilion and overhead The reader must go to Laran at the is a big electric sun-light. On one of beginning of the last half of the the walls is the terminus of Laport's railway, with its suggestion of a little passage has been dug out evidently by using the coal. But it is when we come to the rotunda that we shall be astonished. This magnificent natural temple is brilliantly lit and a regiment of men is being drilled on its cleared and almost smooth stone flooring. The Devil's Gullet is fenced in by an iron rail-for one morning Miss Endicott was eaught walking on its brink and looking over with horror pictured on her face. She was rescued and Hendricks ordered the place railed in.

From the unpainted railway station which here is twenty-eight feet above the solid level, Hendricks and three men are watching the evolutions of the regiment which are in some respects wholly unlike anything ever before seen in military tactics.

The vast spaces beyond the rotunda and quite up to the lake itself are packed high with stores. It looks like a series of endless warerooms or monstrous depots and smells heavily like one of those streets where all the commodities of man obtrude themselves

upon the sidewalks and impede travel. If we penetrate to the hog back area we shall find that in its passages are stables and that there are not only horses but milch cows there and that the great chasm in the south wall has round from below, so that its iron been converted into a magazine and door that furnished an exit into the has heavy wooden doors across its entrance. The mouth of this chasm, it will be noticed, owing to a turn in the wall, faces directly north. The benches of the Laport railway are only two feet above the tops of the wooden

Vague rumors were in the air about on deposit there prior to the robbery A sense of absolute security was of the Corinthian. The moment this

toward Laran. TO BE CONTINUED. FORLIGN GOSSIP.

-As a part of the defense of the lower Thames, a boom is soon to be depression with precipitous sides stretched across the Medway at Sheerness. Four obsolete gunboats will be
used in the construction, which will cost many thousand pounds, the shore trees that could afford shelter anchorages alone requiring \$30,000.

-A custom that has existed for sev- ly strung out cottonwood goves eral centuries is still maintained in along the river, and scattered clumps some towns on the lower Rhine. On of scrub oak and pine upon the valley Easter Monday-auction day-the town | slopes. Yet there the lion had made crier or clerk calls all the young peo-ple together, and to the highest bidder dication of his existence to the ranchsells the privilege of dancing with the man being his destruction of sheep and chosen girl, and her only, during the young stock to satisfy his sanguinary entire year. The fees flow into the appetite. Many men have hunted

public poor box. regiment, the Kaiserjager, lately per- have seen a bear at large, and never a formed a wonderful march from the mountain lion. The latter creature, Pusterthal to the valley of the lower with more than the shyness of his Inn. They had to cross the Zillerthal smaller eastern relative, the panther, Alps by passes 8.500 feet above the sea. has less fierceness in the presence of Rain fell in torrents all the day long man. A terror to deer, hair and anteand on the mountain top they met a lope, and destructive as it is of the blinding snowstorm. One battalion ac- ranchman's colts and calves and sheep, complished the feat in thirteen hours, the mountain lion, when hunted down while another had to pass sixty-three and cornered, rarely puts up even a mountain torrents through water often | show of fight against the hunter, but waist high.

-A prisoner in India recently, on being released, revenged himself on the Press. assistant commissioner who had sentenced him by cutting off one-half of his mustache while he was sleeping Whales Captured on the British Coast Be out of doors on a hot night. It was then found that there was no way of is punishable as dishonoring the per-

137,025 acres of land in Wales, and has and his consort, the queen taking the manorial rights over 180,000 acres head in order that her wardrobe might more. Of the land he owns, 112,000 be replenished with the whalebone acres are occupied by Welsh-speaking needed for the stiffening of her royal and 25,000 be English-speaking ten- garments. ants. The tenants are 941 in all. Among them, twenty-four families have held the same land from 200 to 250 mere shawls, which are dispatched to years each; three is one parish an aver- her every year from the kingdom of age of 333 years apiece; one for 400 Cashmere. They vary in value, as a supposed to have occupied Gartheryr fifty pounds apiece, and the queen is 1.000 years."

ed by the military authorities of Germany. A whole regiment has been provided with boots, the soles of which, iron or aluminum nails (the latter being but of recent trial), are coated over with a paste made of linseed varnish called upon to present annually to her and iron filings. This paste can be applied as often as needed, is claimed to keep the leather pliable and in good tribution of such varied tips as white condition, besides offering more resist- doves, white hares, currycombs, fireance than any number of nails.

-Some one has taken the trouble draw up a list of condemnation to death in France and their results since 1865, in order to show the different ways in which successive rulers have exercised the prerogative of mercy. Under the gar, spices, chickens parboiled and second empire, from 1865 to 1870, there chopped." At the same ceremony the were 193 condemnations and eightyfive commutations, or forty-four per cent.; under MacMahon, from 1873 to 1878, 179 condemnations and 112 commutations, or sixty-two per cent.; under M. Grevy, from 1878 to 1886, 211 glove." These are only a few of the condemnations and 162 commutations, or seventy-six per cent., and under M. Carnot, 157 condemnations and sixtyeight commutations, or forty-five per cent. M. Grevy, it will be seen, was most merciful, and next to him Marshal MacMahon, who, although an old soldier, had great difficulty, it is said, the relatives of condemned men.

A LION'S QUEER MEAL. The Famished Creature Devours an Eng

neer's Axle-Grease.

Last winter, when the snow-storm

were so fearful throughout the mountains in Utah and the earth was covered with snow to the depth of five to ten feet and remained hidden so long, the wild animals were forced to desperation. The wolves were starved and weak, and what is known as the mountain lion almost perished from starvation. Its great strength failed it, and a man with a knife could soon take the life of an animal that a short time before could hold a powerful ox or horse and make a meal of his flesh. The hungry animals after awhile discovered that food was to be had along the railroad track, where passengers threw bones and scraps of victuals from passing trains. Often two starving coyotes would engage in deadly combat over a chicken bone that had a short time before been rid of its last vestige of nourishment by some economical person who did not care to pay seventy-five cents for a meal. This was the condition of things. Engineer Gast had charge of engine No. 151, which was known as "the helper," from the fact that it helped trains up the mountains and when at the summit cut off and dropped back down to the bottom ready to help another. One night when business on the road was slack Gast noticed something wrong with the gearing under the tender, and remarked to the fireman that they would get off and repair it. When half way down the mountain side he brought the engine to a standstill, and the two men went to work at what proved to be a twenty minutes' job packing a hot box on the tender. The tallow pot was left at the boiler's head. After completing the repairs. the men were mounting the engine again, only to see a huge mountain lion devouring the tallow and holding full possession of the engine cab. It was a cold night and the snow drifting. The men had already remained outside until they to Herod was written both in Aramaic were very cold, and the chances of dis- and in Greek, and there are a great possessing Mr. Lion were very meager, as he snapped his teeth and flashed his eyes and fast store! the tallow out of that the old Canaanite religions had sight. The only consolation the men had was that the tallow would not last | Greek mythology, so that the names of long at that rate, and even this thought | native and of Greek deities stand side had no way of determining that one of were most numerous was apparently them would not go the same way at the Decapolis, east of the sea of Galilee. conclusion of the tallow feast. Finally, and it seems to me probable that the session of the facts which set them after fifteen minutes' further delay, people of Gadara, who kept swine, were with the hard floor of a room whose searching for the man known as the the tallow pot was empty, and, giving Greeks, for the pig was regarded as an paid extra for these, and the man told a growl, as much as to say, "I am very unclean animal by the Phœnicians and thankful, gentlemen, and you ought to other natives as well as by the Jews. be," the animal leaped from the cab It has often been disputed whether the

and disappeared in the hill cept for their depredations, only the Greek.-Contemporary Review

practical hunter would suspect their presence about the ranches. The valley in which this beast was killed is a to so large an animal are thindeer season after deer season in the -Five battalions of the Tyrol rifle- Rocky mountains, yet scarcely once after killing his dogs, devotes his whole energies to escape. - Detroit Free

## A OUEEN'S PERQUISITES.

long to Victoria.

Among the most curious of her majpunishing him under the penal code; esty's perquisities is her right to every for, while cutting the hair of a native whale or sturgeon captured on the coast of the United Kingdom and son, there is no such provision for En- brought to land. Both of these perglishmen, and the bodily harm done quisites date back to the days of the was too slight to be considered an of- Norman kings, and it appears that in the case of the whale the monsters -Sir Watkyn William Wynn owns were divided between the sovereign

Another of the queen's perquisities is a certain number of magnificent cashyears, "while the Foulkes family are rule, from sixty to two hundred and accustomed to present one of them as -To prevent the wearing out of boot a wedding present to every young girl soles a new invention is now being test- of the aristocracy in whose future she is in any way interested. Every tailor holding a patent of "Purveyor to her majesty," if he conforms to ancient instead of being strengthened with tradition and usage, should present her with a silver needle each year.

Another class of royal purveyors is a tablecloth, while from other sources again she is entitled to an annual contongs, scarlet hosiery, nightcaps, knives, lances and crossbows. Moreover at the coronation the lord of the manor of Addington, must present to the sovereign a "dish of pottage" composed of "almond of milk, brawn of capons, sulord of the manor of Hayden is obliged, by virtue of his tenure from the crown, to present the monarch with a towel, the lord of the manor of workshop giving the sovereign a "right-handed various perquisites to which Queen Victoria is entitled by tradition and usage.-London Tid-Bits.

SUNDAY IN RURAL SCOTLAND: The Quietness and Restfulness of the Day

in Villages and Small Towns. One may be no Sabbatarian and vet in turning a deaf ear to the appeals of thoroughly enjoy the reposeful quiet of "the Lord's day" in an average Scottish village or small country town. The stillness of the streets, no shriek of railway whistle in your ear, no display of wares in shop windows or chaffering of merchandise in the thoroughfares by the itinerant chapman. The drinking houses contraband for the day to all save the so-called bona fide wayfarer, to the enormous profit of the general community. Then the sound of bell and the flocking to public worship. And in the afternoon or evening the quiet social stroll along the links, lane or highway. It is in its way an idyllic

picture. But here, again, there is change. Bicyclists in scores now fly through the quiet Boreal hamlets and find their way to the public taprooms of a Sunday in the guise of bona fide travelers. while bands of excursionists packed into the char a bancs shake the dust off their chariot wheels as they rattle past the village church, but go not into it. This is, no doubt, in accord. with the fin de siecle spirit, the "perfect law of liberty" after the up-todate manner. And, in judging the poor man or the busy toiler whose week days give but scant opportunity for enjoying the God-given boon of fresh air and sunlight, let us not be too

censorious. Perhaps, after all, Samuel Johnson was not so far wrong in his quaint dictum about the observance of Sunday. "It should be different from another day. People may walk, but not throw stones at birds. There may be relaxation, but there should be no levity." Excellent, though the inference is perhaps rather droll-that on week days one might throw stones at birds. Not unlike the plea I once heard put forward for polygamy-that it is only a bishop who, in Holy Writ, is enjoined to be the husband of one wife. -Scot-

Palestine in the time of Christ, much

The Languages of Palestine. As regards the languages spoken in

that is of high importance has resulted from recent exploration. A dedication many Greek texts of this age in all parts of the country, which show us not yet died out, but were mingled with was not entirely satisfactory, as they by side. The region where the Greeks gospels were originally written in The recent killing by two hunters of Greek or in Aramaic; but it has now a mountain lion measuring nine feet been rendered certain by exploration from tip to tip, in the Pecos valley, in that Greek was very widely used in southerr New Mexico, affords an illus- Palestine at this time, and that it was tration of the powerful wild beasts understood by the Jews as well as by that, inhabiting the forests and plains others. We have recovered the stone, and mountrain districts, are rarely written in Greek, which warned the seen by human eye. Such animals, Gentiles not to enter the inner court of

HABITS OF THE FUR SEALS. With Half the World to Choose from They Stick to Two Little Isla

The fur seal (its name should be furry sea lion) is the most celebrated of all our fur-bearers, and the United States government has been as active in protecting it from destruction as it was indifferent to the fate of the buffalo millions. If our great international dispute with England and Canada over the fur seal had arisen seventy years ago, before the days of peaceful arbitration, there would surely have been a war over it. Nor is our interest in our fur seal to be wondered at when we stop to consider that from 1870 to 1890 our national treasury received \$6,000,000 from the Alaska Commercial Co. as royalty on the animals killed (six-sevenths of the purchase price of Alaska). When to this we add the amount received in a twenty-per-cent. import duty on the dressed skins as they come back to us from the English dyers, the total revenue derived from the fur seal in twenty years amounts to the enormous sum of 88,500,000. Such an animal was worth saving from destruction. No other quadruped ever became such a bone of contention between two great nations for a long period, the discussion winding up with a high and mighty conference of arbitration.

As usual, the whole trouble arose through the greediness of a few irresponsible and lawless individuals. The sealers of the Pacific coast insisted upon taking fur seals by shooting them in the open sea, by which wasteful process seven were lost for every three secured. But if it were not for the loss of money revenue derived from this animal, it is quite certain the government would have allowed the wasteful slaughter to go on until the last seal was dead.

The fur seal is not a true seal by any means, but a sea lion, with naked, paddle-shaped flippers and tiny ears. It is about two-thirds the size of the Zalophus, and is therefore the smallest member of the sealion family. Mr. Elliott gives the average length of the full-grown male animal as six feet from nose to tail, and weight from three hundred and fifty to five hundred pounds. The average length of the adult female is a trifle over four feet, and weight from sixty-two to seventy-five pounds. When dry, the coat is of a dark, steel-gray color, and only the course, stiff outer hair is visible. Underneath this lies a dense coat of very fine and soft light-brown fur, in which lies all the value of the skin. In preparing the pelt, the coarse outer hair is entirely removed, and the underlying fur is dyed a shiny, lustrous black, and sheared down very evenly. For some mysterious reason, we, the people of "Yankee ingenuity," are actually unable to dye seal fur successfully, and this work is from sheer necesback, there is a high rate of duty to pay, which in addition to the original royalty of \$10.22 paid to the government by the North American Commercial Co. for every skin taken, the very long bill of transportation charges, labor, and profits all along the line, from the back of the seal to that of the fortunate wearer, accounts for the price of from \$250 to \$600 on a seal-skin

In its habits the fur seal is a remarkable creature. With 3,000 miles of coast to land upon if it chose, this strange and perverse animal now refuses to set flipper upon any portion of the whole North American continent, island or mainland, save the two little dots of land in Behring sea, St. Paul and St. George islands, known to the world collectively as the Pribylof islands. St. Paul is 7 by 14 miles, and St. George is only 51/4 by 13 miles.

And yet, when Mr. Elliott made his careful and elaborate surveys of all the "rookeries," or herding-grounds, on those islands, in July, 1878, and laboriously calculated the number of their fin-footed inhabitants, he found there the astonishing number of 3,193,420 fur seals. Like sheep in a pen, they actually crowded one another on the sloping shores of sand, or water-worn boulders, or tables of slaty-blue basalt. Each burly old male appears a giant beside the females and young males gathered around him.-W. T. Hornaday, in St Nicholas.

THE WRONG CROWD.

An Audience That Was in No Mood for The dapper little man in the check suit, with a bulky cane and a large vellow valise, saw a good-sized crowd on the street corner and immediately dived into the center of it. He didn't take time to stop to find out what was the reason of the crowd's gathering, but began business at once. The thick cane was given a dexterous twist that developed it into a tripod, and the

large yellow valise was placed on ton "Gentlemen," began the dapper man. The crowd concentrated its collective eyes on him. "I have here," continued the orator, with the easy confidence of a man whose life has been passed in public speaking. "I have here for sale at twenty-five cents a bottle Old Mother Sohnso's Homemade root bitters. These bitters, gentlemen, are warranted to cure any case of loss of appetite that ever existed. Ten drops taken as a dose before meal time will make the most dyspetic man want porter house steaks, fried chicken, ice-cream, a whole half of a pie---

He said no more. The crowd of hungry strikers. who had been living for two weeks on half a meal every fortty-eight hours, jumped on him, jammed his yellow valise, bottles and all, down over his head and chased him up the street at wondrous speed.-Indianapo

lis Journal. All Danger Removed. It was at the dinner party given by

the contractor's wife. "And I see you are not eating any grapes, Mrs. Newrich. They are so nice, too. Don't you care for them?" Mrs. Newrich-Well, really, I like them, but I am afraid of appendeskee-

tees, you know. Hostess-Oh, you don't need to be afraid of them, Mrs. Newrich, for I me the appendeskeetus had been cut out before he brought them to town .indianapolis Sentinel.

Didn't Know Him. Observant Citizen-That seems to be

a very thoughtful man in the fourth seat front. Judge? Conductor-No. Capitalist. "I should have taken him for a judge

or deep student by his straightforward, impressive look." "Oh, he's only playing make believe that he's paid his fare, but I'll get him." -Cleveland Plain Dealer.